

OPINION 1852

Melissodes desponsa Smith, 1854 and *M. agilis* Cresson, 1878 (Insecta, Hymenoptera): specific names conserved

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Hymenoptera; solitary bees; *Melissodes*.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary powers the following names are hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy:
 - (a) *americana* Lepeletier, 1841, as published in the binomen *Macrocera americana*;
 - (b) *pensylvanica* Lepeletier, 1841, as published in the binomen *Macrocera pensylvanica*;
 - (c) *philadelphica* Lepeletier, 1841, as published in the binomen *Macrocera philadelphica*.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *desponsa* Smith, 1854, as published in the binomen *Melissodes desponsa*;
 - (b) *agilis* Cresson, 1878, as published in the binomen *Melissodes agilis*.
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *americana* Lepeletier, 1841, as published in the binomen *Macrocera americana* and as suppressed in (1)(a) above;
 - (b) *pensylvanica* Lepeletier, 1841, as published in the binomen *Macrocera pensylvanica* and as suppressed in (1)(b) above;
 - (c) *philadelphica* Lepeletier, 1841, as published in the binomen *Macrocera philadelphica* and as suppressed in (1)(c) above.

History of Case 2945

An application for the conservation of the specific names of *Melissodes desponsa* Smith, 1854 and *M. agilis* Cresson, 1878 was received from Dr Wallace E. LaBerge (Center for Biodiversity, Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign, Illinois, U.S.A.) on 8 August 1994. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 52: 159–161 (June 1995). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 March 1996 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 52: 160–161. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 1996 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 20: Bayer, Bock, Bouchet, Cocks, Corliss, Hahn, Heppell, Holthuis, Kraus, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Štys, Trjapitzin

Negative votes — 2: Kabata and Lehtinen.

Dupuis abstained.

No vote was received from Halvorsen.

Cogger and Ride were on leave of absence.

Lehtinen commented: 'The type material of all three of Lepeletier's (1841) nominal species is in a well-known museum and Smith's (1854) original description of *Melissodes desponsa* suggested that this taxon might be the female of *M. americana* (para. 3 of the application). The neglect of proper revisionary work by American authors is not a sufficient reason to deviate from priority'.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

agilis, *Melissodes*, Cresson, 1878, *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, 30(2): 204.

americana, *Macrocera*, Lepeletier, 1841, *Histoire naturelle des insectes*. Hyménoptères, vol. 2, p. 92.

desponsa, *Melissodes*, Smith, 1854, *Catalogue of hymenopterous insects in the collection of the British Museum*, part 2 (Apidae), p. 310.

pennsylvanica, *Macrocera*, Lepeletier, 1841, *Histoire naturelle des insectes*. Hyménoptères, vol. 2, p. 97.

philadelphica, *Macrocera*, Lepeletier, 1841, *Histoire naturelle des insectes*. Hyménoptères, vol. 2, p. 110.